

CLAIM LISTING

1-23 *(Canceled)*

24. *(Previously Presented)* A method of treating a region of tissue within a cranial cavity of a body, comprising:

advancing an elongate body into a cranial cavity, said elongate body having an automatically controllable proximal portion and a selectively steerable distal portion;

selectively steering said selectively steerable distal portion to assume a selected curve along a desired path within said cranial cavity; and

further advancing said elongate body through said cranial cavity and towards the region of tissue to be treated while controlling said automatically controllable proximal portion of said elongate body with an electronic motion controller to assume said selected curve of said selectively steerable distal portion.

25. *(Previously Presented)* A method of treating a region of tissue within a thoracic cavity of a body, comprising:

advancing an elongate body into a thoracic cavity, said elongate body having an automatically controllable proximal portion and a selectively steerable distal portion;

selectively steering said selectively steerable distal portion to assume a selected curve along a desired path within said thoracic cavity; and

further advancing said elongate body through said thoracic cavity and towards the region of tissue to be treated while controlling said automatically controllable proximal portion of said elongate body with an electronic motion controller to assume said selected curve of said selectively steerable distal portion.

26. *(Previously Presented)* A method of treating a region of tissue within a peritoneal cavity of a body, comprising:

advancing an elongate body into said peritoneal cavity, said elongate body having an automatically controllable proximal portion and a selectively steerable distal portion;

selectively steering said selectively steerable distal portion to assume a selected curve along a desired path within said peritoneal cavity; and

further advancing said elongate body through said peritoneal cavity and towards the region of tissue to be treated while controlling said automatically controllable proximal portion of said elongate body with an electronic motion controller to assume said selected curve of said selectively steerable distal portion.

27. ***(Previously Presented)*** The method according to Claims 24-26 wherein advancing said elongate body comprises percutaneously advancing the elongate body towards the region of tissue to be treated.

28. ***(Previously Presented)*** The method according to Claim 24 further comprising creating an incision prior to advancing said elongate device through said incision.

29. ***(Previously Presented)*** The method according to Claim 25 further comprising creating an incision prior to advancing said elongate device through said incision.

30. ***(Previously Presented)*** The method according to Claim 26 further comprising creating an incision prior to advancing said elongate device through said incision.

31. ***(Previously Presented)*** The method according to Claim 25, wherein advancing said elongate device comprises advancing said elongate device through an opening defined in the heart.

32. ***(Previously Presented)*** The method according to Claim 25, wherein advancing said elongate device comprises advancing said elongate device through an opening defined in an intercostal space.

33. (*Previously Presented*) The method according to Claim 24 further comprising treating the region of tissue to be treated.

34. (*Previously Presented*) The method according to Claim 33 wherein, treating the region of tissue comprises delivering an instrument to the region of tissue through said elongate body.

35. (*Previously Presented*) The method according to Claim 33 wherein, treating the region of tissue comprises treating the region via an apparatus integral with said elongate body.

36. (*Previously Presented*) The method according to Claim 25 further comprising treating the region of tissue to be treated.

37. (*Previously Presented*) The method according to Claim 36 wherein, treating the region of tissue comprises delivering an instrument to the region of tissue through said elongate body.

38. (*Previously Presented*) The method according to Claim 36 wherein, treating the region of tissue comprises treating the region via an apparatus integral with said elongate body.

39. (*Previously Presented*) The method according to Claim 26 further comprising treating the region of tissue to be treated.

40. (*Previously Presented*) The method according to Claim 39 wherein, treating the region of tissue comprises delivering an instrument to the region of tissue through said elongate body.

41. (*Previously Presented*) The method according to Claim 39 wherein, treating the region of tissue comprises treating the region via an apparatus integral with said elongate body.

42. (*Previously Presented*) The method of Claims 24-26, wherein selectively steering comprises selecting the curve with reduces contact with the tissue.

43. (*Previously Presented*) The method of Claims 24-26, wherein selectively steering comprises avoiding contact with anatomical structures with the body.

44. (*Previously Presented*) The method of Claims 24-26, wherein further advancing said elongate body comprises advancing the device through tissue adjacent to the region of tissue to be treated.